

A very small segment of hydric pine plantation at the side of Creek Road consists of very-closely-planted young loblolly pine planted on bedded rows. Saw-tooth blackberry (*Rubus argutus*) is residual from early growth following site preparation.

Loblolly and longleaf pine occur at the large pine plantation along FR 638 west of Sunset Drive. The plantation is largely mesic, though unmapped sections of it in the western half are somewhat wetter, and possibly hydric, than the eastern half. Saplings and small tree-sized sweetgum is the major tree species present. Horsesugar, huckleberry, southern bayberry, and swamp bay are the customary shrubs. Herbaceous species commonly represented are northern bracken fern, spring-flowering goldenrod, broom-sedge, and Virginia chain fern occur throughout.

Loblolly pine has been planted at the western edge of the project corridor along the end of Pine Grove Road (FR 156). The major significant understory species in this mesic plantation is southern bayberry. An additional loblolly pine plantation in the Alternate 3 study corridor was planted along Hickman Hill Road (FR 601). This stand is hydric. Sweetgum and southern bayberry are the most-significant understory species.

Successional/Ruderal Habitat (SR)

Natural communities in which natural soil/vegetation relationships have been modified for human use and then abandoned are considered successional. Abandoned agricultural fields, borrow pits, sand mines, and unmanaged clear-cut areas are examples. Ruderal habitats may exist where soil material is maintained in a constant state of disturbance.

An area along Sunset Drive within the Alternate 2 study corridor is an example of habitat containing both successional and ruderal habitats. A combination of mesic pine flatwoods and hardwood slope forest along the north side of the swamp forest paralleling the Southwest Prong Slocum Creek was removed to create a borrow area for one or more nearby projects requiring fill material. Overburden was removed and piled to the sides to allow access to the required material. Natural soil material well into the C-horizon was transported from the site leaving exposed parent material for